

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This Listing of the Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A blood substitute composition comprising polyethylene glycol surface-modified hemoglobin having an oxygen affinity less than that of strama-free hemoglobin, and an aqueous diluent, wherein ~~[[said]]~~ the aqueous diluent is at least 40% plasma.
2. (Original) The blood substitute composition of claim 1, wherein the plasma is derived from a natural source.
3. (Original) The blood substitute composition of claim 1, wherein the plasma is derived from the same animal species as the hemoglobin.
4. (Original) The blood substitute composition of claim 1, wherein the plasma is autologous plasma.
5. (Cancelled).
6. (Cancelled).
7. (Currently Amended) The blood substitute composition of claim ~~[[5]]~~ 1, wherein the hemoglobin concentration is less than ~~[[4g/dl]]~~ 4g/dL.
8. (Cancelled).